

Richard

BROWNHILLS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Chief Public Health Inspector,
ON THE WORK OF THE
Public Health Services.

1960



STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. G. CREMER, L.R.C.P. and S.I., L.M., D.C.H., D.P.H.
(until January, 1961).

Dr. H. SHORE, M.D., D.T.M. and H., D.P.H. (from June,
1961).

Chief Public Health Inspector :

JOHN WILSON, D.P.A. (Lond.), M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.,
A.M.I.P.H.E. (until July, 1960).

R. H. MANN, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (from September, 1960).

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

K. BLOWER, M.A.P.H.I.

G. CROWE, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Chief Clerk :

E. MARKLEW.

Assistant Clerk :

M. JONES (until June, 1961).

J. PINCHES (from June, 1961).

Pupil Public Health Inspector :

D. PICKERING.

Handyman :

S. WRIGHT.



BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1960

Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Having joined the staff only recently, my comments cannot be based on personal experience and must be based on the figures available.

It appears from these that the health of the district has improved. The Infant Mortality Rate, which is an important index of the health of a community is 14.51 and the lowest on record. The crude death rate has dropped significantly to 8.46 per thousand of the population, whilst the birth rate has increased to 21.79.

An analysis of the causes of death shows a gratifying drop in the number of cancer cases, i.e., from 54 (21.6%) in 1959 to 33 (15.4%). Men have benefited from this more than women, as the number of Cancer of the lung cases has dropped from 11 to 4. Vascular lesions, particularly coronary disease, are as frequent as ever, in fact the number of the latter increased in 1960. Heart disease and cancer are still the most important causes of death.

With regard to Infectious Diseases, this was a non-measles year. Notifications numbered 17 against 231 in 1959. The biannual fluctuation of the number of measles cases is here typically shown.

No case of poliomyelitis occurred. The death rate for Tuberculosis fell to 0.11, but the number of Pulmonary Tuberculosis increased by seven to 234.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
H. SHORE,
Medical Officer of Health.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The Brownhills Urban District is in the southern half of the County of Staffordshire on the fringe of the Birmingham conurbation.

The altitude of the district varies from 420 feet to 600 feet above sea level.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There is still a decline in the part mining plays in the employment pattern of the district. This decline is being offset by the continual growth of new industries that are being introduced into the district.

AREA AND RATEABLE VALUE.

The area of the district is 6,307 acres. The rateable value is £188,499. The sum represented by a penny rate is £710.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's figure for the estimated population is 25,280 (mid-year). The provisional population according to the 1951 census 21,482, which showed an increase of 3,114 over the 1931 census. The 1951 census showed that there were 10,759 males and 10,723 females. The density of population is 4.0 per acre.

HOUSING.

The following is a summary of houses built during 1960 :—

By private enterprise	182
Permanent houses by the local authority	195
By local authority for sale to the public	20



BIRTHS, 1960

Live Births :—

		Male		Female		Total
Legitimate	..	270	..	262	..	532
Illegitimate	..	11	..	8	..	19
				Total	..	551

The number of illegitimate live births was 3.6% of the total live births.

Still Births :—

		Male		Female		Total
Legitimate	..	5	..	6	..	11
Illegitimate	..	—	..	—	..	—
				Total	..	11

The number of live births gives a birth rate of 21.79 per thousand of the population. The area comparability factor for births is 0.94 and this gives a corrected birth rate of 20.48.

Still births numbered 11. This gives a still birth rate of 0.43 per thousand of the population, or a still birth rate of 19.57 per thousand total births (live and still). The total live and still births was 562.

DEATHS, 1960

Deaths numbered 214. 112 males and 102 females.

This gives a crude death rate of 8.46 per thousand of the population and a standard rate of 11.75 per thousand (the area comparability factor is 1.39).

DEATHS, 1960.

Cause		Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	3	—	3
Tuberculosis, other	..	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	..	—	—	—
Diphtheria	..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	..	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	—	—	—
Measles	..	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	..	5	2	7
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	4	3	7
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	..	—	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	..	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	5	10	15
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	—	—	—
Diabetes	..	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	13	14	27
Coronary disease, angina	..	20	17	37
Hypertension with heart disease	..	—	4	4
Other heart disease	..	15	26	41
Other circulatory disease	..	5	5	10
Influenza	..	2	—	2
Pneumonia	..	4	5	9
Bronchitis	..	8	2	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	..	2	—	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	2	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	..	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	10	7	17
Motor Vehicle accidents	..	1	1	2
All other accidents	..	6	1	7
Suicide	..	3	—	3
Homicide and operations of war	..	—	—	—
All causes	..	112	102	214

The death rate (per thousand of the population) for Tuberculosis is 0.11, for Pneumonia 0.35, for Influenza 0.07 and Bronchitis 0.39.

DEATHS—AGE DISTRIBUTION.

Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70 & over	Total
8	1	1	—	3	6	6	10	32	47	100	214

69% of the deaths occurred in persons over 60 years.
 31% were under 60 years.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Disease	Under	1 week	1 week	Months								Total
	1 week	to 1 month		1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-9	9-12		
Erythroblastosis Foetalis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Anoxia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
											Total ..	8

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year of age	8
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	14.51
There was no illegitimate death recorded.	
Legitimate Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	15.03
Illegitimate Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	7
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	12.70

EARLY NEO-MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one week of age	7
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	12.70

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	Nil
Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Nil

PERINATAL MORTALITY.

Total still births and deaths under 1 week of age	18
Mortality rate per 1,000 total live and still births	32.02

INFANT MORTALITY RATE FOR THE LAST THIRTEEN YEARS.

(Rates per 1,000 live births).

Year	Number	Rate	Year	Number	Rate
1948 ..	16 ..	40.7	1955 ..	5 ..	15.1
1949 ..	9 ..	21.9	1956 ..	14 ..	37.2
1950 ..	17 ..	43.7	1957 ..	15 ..	35.0
1951 ..	9 ..	27.8	1958 ..	17 ..	32.6
1952 ..	10 ..	29.7	1959 ..	9 ..	18.25
1953 ..	12 ..	33.1	1960 ..	8 ..	14.51
1954 ..	11 ..	30.4			

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70 and over	Total
Measles	1	7	7	1	—	—	1	—	—	17
Whooping Cough	10	74	81	11	—	—	2	1	—	179
Scarlet Fever	—	13	23	2	—	—	—	—	—	38
Pneumonia	1	—	1	1	1	4	1	11
Erysipelas	—	—	—	1	—	1	4
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	7	7	1	—	—	17
Food Poisoning	1	1	—	—	—	—	2

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The case rates per thousand of the population in respect of certain infectious diseases are as follows :—

Meningococcal Infection	..	..	..	0.03
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	1.50
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	7.08
Erysipelas	..	..	..	0.15
Measles	..	..	..	0.67
Pneumonia	..	..	..	0.43
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio-encephalitis)		..	..	0.00
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	0.07
Dysentery	..	..	..	0.67

TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS IN 1960			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 "	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 30 "	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
30 to 40 "	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
40 to 50 "	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50 to 60 "	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
60 to 70 "	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
70 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	11	2	1	—	3	—	—	—

The following table shows the number of cases remaining on the register at the end of each year :—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
1952	..	71 .. 74	18 ..	27 ..	190	
1953	..	81 .. 87	14 ..	23 ..	205	
1954	..	93 .. 96	15 ..	24 ..	228	
1955	..	92 .. 87	17 ..	23 ..	219	
1956	..	97 .. 92	19 ..	23 ..	231	
1957	..	105 .. 101	18 ..	23 ..	247	
1958	..	121 .. 100	17 ..	27 ..	265	
1959	..	127 .. 107	19 ..	26 ..	279	
1960	..	135 .. 106	20 ..	25 ..	286	

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Welfare, Maternity, School Health and Tuberculosis after-care services are under the control of the County Council. Within the general ambit of these services the appropriate clinics are held at places suitably accessible for the district.

The Home Help, Home Nursing and Ambulance services are also provided by the County Council.

HOSPITALS.

General : Walsall General and Walsall Manor Hospitals.

Maternity : The district is mostly served by Lichfield and Walsall Maternity Hospitals and Ivy House Hospital, Cannock.

X-ray facilities : At Hospitals and Mass Radiography unit, Ambulance Station, Walsall.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Stafford branch of the Public Health Laboratory Services.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1960.

*To the Chairman and members of
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my first annual report on the work of the Public Health Inspectorate.

The year has been one of considerable activity, carried out under great difficulties. Changes of staff and illness caused much of the routine work to be deferred and it was found necessary to give priority to urgent matters. It is pleasing to report that 100% meat inspection was maintained and that Slum Clearance work has kept pace with the house building programme, so that in most cases the Council has been able to rehouse the occupants of condemned properties within a reasonable time of the Orders becoming operative.

A useful addition to legislation during the year, was the introduction of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, which is aimed at eliminating insanitary and unsightly sites and providing sites with high amenity standards, which should be of great value as auxiliary housing accommodation. It is a matter of regret, however, that the legislation does not provide sites for nomads who continue to be difficult to deal with. It is no solution to the problem to drive them into the adjoining districts and it is to be hoped that in the future, legislation will be introduced to give local authorities control of what is a most difficult problem.

PART II—STAFF

The establishment is two additional Public Health Inspectors, but due to illness and the departure of Mr. Wilson, for a long period the effective strength of the inspectorate was one. It is due to the loyal co-operation of all members of the Department that so much has been accomplished.

The character of the district is changing from a mainly mining district to a manufacturing one, with the result that the work of the Department is increasing due to the heavy slum clearance programme, meat inspection, mining subsidence, smoke control work and food control. As a result, the Council may soon be required to consider the appointment of a further Public Health Inspector if a proper balance in this important preventive work is to be maintained.

PART III—WATER SUPPLY

The public water supply is controlled by the South Staffordshire Water Works Company. There have been no cases of shortage of supply and the quality has been maintained.

Many of the Company's mains run through areas of the district affected by mining subsidence, and although the Council are not made aware of the repair works carried out, there is no doubt that the Company must maintain a constant vigilance. This Department took 168 samples from house taps, so that the Council in its turn, could be sure that the water supply was pure and wholesome.

R. H. Taylor, Esq., the Engineer-in-Chief of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company has supplied the following information :—

- “ 1. The supply to the area is satisfactory in quality and quantity.
2. The supply to the Urban District of Brownhills is afforded from pumping stations outside the boundary of the Authority. All the waters as pumped are examined at regular intervals both bacteriologically and chemically. Bacteriological samples are also examined of the raw waters where treatment is practised.

During 1960 routine samples were examined from the Municipal Buildings at Brownhills, from High Street, Clayhanger, and from the Waterman's house, Norton Canes. 15 samples from Brownhills, 15 from Clayhanger and 12 from Norton Canes were satisfactory.

72 samples were examined from the Norton Canes area, 68 of which were satisfactory. The feed to the district was examined at Chapel Lane where all samples were satisfactory. 36 samples were examined from the Coppice Road-Camden Street area of Walsall Wood of which 34 were satisfactory.

The average chemical results for 1960 of the tap samples from the Waterman's house, Norton Canes and Municipal Buildings, Brownhills, were :—

	Norton Canes				Brownhills	
pH	7.6		7.4
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	82	parts per million	..	117
Chlorides (Cl)	15.9	..	..	29.9
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	..	Trace	..	..	..	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	..	Trace	..	..	..	Trace
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	..	3.2	..	..	..	7.2
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)	.12	..	..	..	..	.12
Temporary Hardness	..	77	..	..	..	113
Permanent Hardness	..	48	..	..	..	130
Total Hardness	..	125	..	..	..	243
Iron (Fe)	Trace	..	..	Trace
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	..	..	Nil
Zinc (Zn)	Nil	..	..	Nil
Poisonous Metals (Cu and Pb)	..	Nil	..	..	..	Nil
Free Cl01	..	..	Nil

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, no lead being found in any samples examined.
 4. Sterilisation of waters is carried out where possible at the pumping stations as a precautionary measure. Special apparatus and staff are available in the event of contamination. Chlorination on site is practised, following burst mains, etc., laying of new mains, and emptying reservoirs. New mains, etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.
 5. Number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains :—
- | | |
|--|-------|
| (a) direct to the houses | 7,920 |
| (b) by means of standpipes | 39 |
| | 7,959 |

The population is estimated by the Company at 3.75 persons per house."

PART IV—SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

By a combination of work under the headings slum clearance, improvement grants and Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the substitution of water closets for out-dated sanitary conveniences has steadily proceeded so that there are only 41 pail closets and 23 privies in use. The majority of these are situate in the Norton Canes ward. There are a number of houses on the fringe of the development, where the provision of sewers would involve a pumping station, and I am of the opinion this would be a justifiable cost. These houses, particularly those in Hedgesford Road, Norton Canes, in the main have a 30 years life, and to continue with cesspools and septic tanks in the year 1961 appears to be perpetuating a source of trouble and in some cases a nuisance.

Temporary closets at Chasewater have caused some concern but a scheme has been prepared to provide a sewer and permanent, modern conveniences, which will be a big improvement to the amenities at Chasewater.

TABLE I—SEWER AVAILABLE.

District	Pails		Privies	
	To be converted	For H.A. action	To be converted	For H.A. action
Norton Canes (including Little Wyrley)	—	1	—	1
Brownhills West	—	—	—	—
Walsall Wood	—	—	—	—
Shelfield and High Heath	—	—	—	—
Brownhills	—	1	—	—
Totals ..	—	2	—	1

TABLE II—SEWER NOT AVAILABLE.

District	Pails	Privies
Norton Canes (including Little Wyrley)	27	15
Brownhills West	7	3
Walsall Wood	5	2
Shelfield and High Heath	—	1
Brownhills	—	1
Totals ..	39	22

PART V—SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

- (1) Brownhills, Brownhills West, Clayhanger, Sandhills and Walsall Wood are seweraged to the Green Lane Works, Walsall Wood. Over the last 10 years work has been systematically carried out with a view to modernisation and to the rectification of damage caused by mining subsidence. The new trunk sewers now in course of construction avoid the subsidence areas and should ensure that sewage reaches the works. The brook receiving the effluent has no great volume of flow and it is, therefore, essential that the effluent from the works reaches a high standard of purity.

Regular samples are taken of the effluent, and the brook course, above and below the point of discharge. Copies of the results

are forwarded to the Engineer and Surveyor. Unfortunately these sample results are only an indication of the unsatisfactory state one may expect to find the brook in, farther down the course. Tenants of houses in the Fordbrook Lane area have complained bitterly of the smell from the mud deposited on the banks of the stream. This mud has been deposited over a considerable length of time and has as its source, unsatisfactory effluents from the Walsall Wood sewage works and a sewer overflow from the area of Aldridge Urban District Council. The banks have been sprayed to keep down the incidence of flies, and some cleaning out work has helped to sustain the rate of flow. More drastic measures, such as the elimination of the meanders, are now to be undertaken. It is essential that the works effluent and the sewer overflow also receive attention.

- (2) Norton Canes has its own sewerage system, and disposal works constructed about 20 years ago. If reference is made to the tables shown under Part IV of this report it will be seen that 44 houses in the Norton Canes ward are without water closets. Norton Road, Heath Hayes (10 houses), the end of Hedgesford Road, Norton Canes (12 houses), and Butts Lane, Norton Canes (5 houses), are the main groups of houses without a public sewer.
- (3) The Shelfield and High Heath Areas are sewered to the Goscote works operated by the Goscote Joint Board. The Council make a contribution towards the cost.
- (4) Watling Street, Brownhills, and the recent development in this area are sewered to a disposal plant operated by Lichfield Rural District Council. By far the greater volume of flow received at the works comes from this Urban District.
- (5) A colliery, café and three houses at Heath Hayes are sewered to a system controlled by Cannock Urban District Council.

PART VI—REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection and disposal of refuse is controlled by the Engineer and Surveyor. Complaints received in the Health Department are transferred to that office for attention.

The disposal of refuse is by tipping. An improvement is urgently called for in this part of the service, and it is certain that the Council will have to budget for an increase in expenditure in this work. The poor condition of the tips is a longstanding problem which has not improved with time.

From a public health point of view a weekly collection should be the minimum to be aimed at.

The dustbin supply service operated by the Health Department has issued 521 bins during the year.

PART VII

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Total Visits .. . . . .	.. . . . .	6,062
Complaints received .. . . . .	.. . . . .	169
Houses inspected—Public Health Act, repairs .. . . . .	.. . . . .	829
—Housing Act .. . . . .	.. . . . .	428
—Overcrowding .. . . . .	.. . . . .	34
—Verminous or Dirty .. . . . .	.. . . . .	146
—Improvement Grants .. . . . .	.. . . . .	114
—Subsidence Damage .. . . . .	.. . . . .	2
—Certificates of Disrepair .. . . . .	.. . . . .	11
Movable Dwellings .. . . . .	.. . . . .	339
Butchers' Shops .. . . . .	.. . . . .	122
Fish Fryers .. . . . .	.. . . . .	61
Bakehouses .. . . . .	.. . . . .	13
Slaughterhouses .. . . . .	.. . . . .	61
Food Premises .. . . . .	.. . . . .	381
Meat Inspections .. . . . .	.. . . . .	641
Other Food Inspections .. . . . .	.. . . . .	20
Shops Act .. . . . .	.. . . . .	17
Dustbins .. . . . .	.. . . . .	306
New Dustbins delivered .. . . . .	.. . . . .	521
Ashpits .. . . . .	.. . . . .	11
Refuse Tips .. . . . .	.. . . . .	36
Water Closets .. . . . .	.. . . . .	67
Pails .. . . . .	.. . . . .	11
Privies .. . . . .	.. . . . .	1
Cesspools, etc. .. . . . .	.. . . . .	24
Drains—new and/or tested .. . . . .	.. . . . .	34
—existing and/or defective .. . . . .	.. . . . .	76
—cleansed .. . . . .	.. . . . .	104
Keeping of animals .. . . . .	.. . . . .	26
Rodent Control .. . . . .	.. . . . .	376
Clean Air .. . . . .	.. . . . .	51
Petroleum Storage .. . . . .	.. . . . .	20
Factories—mechanical .. . . . .	.. . . . .	177
Infectious Disease Enquiries .. . . . .	.. . . . .	112
Disinfections and Disfestations .. . . . .	.. . . . .	75
Miscellaneous .. . . . .	.. . . . .	463
Samples—water, bacteriological .. . . . .	.. . . . .	168
—chemical .. . . . .	.. . . . .	21
—faecal .. . . . .	.. . . . .	115
—Atmospheric Pollution .. . . . .	.. . . . .	42
—Miscellaneous .. . . . .	.. . . . .	4
Swabs—Food Hygiene .. . . . .	.. . . . .	2

NOTICES SERVED

Informal Notices brought forward from 1959 ..	.. . . . .	52
Informal Notices served .. . . . .	.. . . . .	72
Informal Notices complied with .. . . . .	.. . . . .	46
Informal Notices carried forward to 1961 ..	.. . . . .	78

FOOD HYGIENE

Notices served .. . . . .	.. . . . .	7
Notices complied with .. . . . .	.. . . . .	22

STATUTORY NOTICES.

TABLE III

	Brought forward from 1959	Served	Complied with	Carried forward to 1961
Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936	11	2	1	12
Section 45, Public Health Act, 1936	1	1	—	2
Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936	3	1	1	3
Sections 92, 93, Public Health Act, 1936	... ... ... ...	19	9	14
Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	...	2	—	2
Totals	...	36	13	33

PART VIII—HOUSING.

The Council have pursued their policy of dealing with houses in the slum clearance category as approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. It is necessary for the number of confirmed clearance orders to be in advance of the house building programme as houses cannot be kept waiting for families.

A comparison between the number of houses dealt with in accordance with the programme during the year (68 houses) and the number of Council houses built (195, including 11 Aged People's Dwellings) shows that the clearance programme has kept pace with the building programme.

Individual Unfit Houses

The Council made Demolition Orders or Closing Orders in respect of the following 19 houses.

- 33, Poplar Street, Norton Canes.
- 373 and 375, Norton Road, Heath Hayes.
- 18, Field Lane, High Heath.
- 67, Friezland Lane, Brownhills.
- 4, Gt. Charles Street, Brownhills.
- 81, Coppice Lane, Brownhills.
- 107, Lindon Road, Brownhills.
- 53, High Street, Walsall Wood.
- 147, Holly Lane, Walsall Wood.
- 106, 107, 108, 109, 111, 112 and 113, Watling Street, Brownhills.
- 50, Bridge Street, Clayhanger.
- 10, Brownhills Road, Brownhills.

Clearance Areas

49 houses were dealt with by the Clearance Area procedure.

Clearance Area No. 46 :

143-157, High Street,
Brownhills,
and
21-35, St. James Square,
Brownhills.

Compulsory Purchase Order.

Clearance Area No. 47 :

21 and 25, Wilkin Road,
Brownhills.

Compulsory Purchase Order.

Clearance Area No. 48 :

2-36, Aldridge Road,
Walsall Wood.

Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 49 :

6-16, New Street,
Shelfield.

Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 50 :

4-18, Field Lane,
High Heath.

Clearance Order.

The following is an analysis of the above work under the Housing Acts, along with the repair work carried out under the Public Health Act :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. .. .. .. ..	140
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	..	1,257
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. .. .. .. ..	68

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers..

46

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(a) Proceedings under Section 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 :		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—	
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	—	
(a) by Owners	—	
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ..	—	
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act :—		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	72	
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) by Owners	16	
(b) by Local Authority in default by Owners ..	—	
(c) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 :		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	19	
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	37	
(d) Number of Closing Orders made under Section 17 (1) of the Housing Act, 1957 ..	—	
(e) Undertaking accepted under Section 16 (4) of the Housing Act, 1957	3	
(f) Procedure under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957 :		
(1) Number of dwelling houses included in declared Clearance Areas	49	
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of confirmed Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders	20	
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished on certificate of unfitness of Medical Officer ..	8	

4. Rehousing from unfit property :			
Families rehoused from Clearance Areas	25		
Persons rehoused from Clearance Areas	58		
Families rehoused from Demolition Orders, etc.	30		
Persons rehoused from Demolition Orders, etc.	107		
Families rehoused from houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	11		
Persons rehoused from houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	28		

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) Discretionary Grants

A further 11 applications for discretionary grants were received (Nos. 110 to 120) inclusive. Application No. 119 was refused.

The "approved expense" of the 10 grants approved totalled £3,277, and the grant was for 50% of the amount in each case.

(b) Standard Grants

Thirteen applications for standard grants were received (Nos. S/3 to S/15) inclusive. One was refused (No. S/5).

It is pleasing to be able to report an increase in the number of applications for grants. It is beneficial both for the Council and the owners to provide modern amenities in obsolescent houses which still have a useful life, provided they are structurally sound. It would be useful if local authorities were given powers to serve notices for the provision of these improvements in the same way as repairs are called for under the Housing Act. There are still many landlords who are unwilling, for one reason or another, to provide these amenities.

Certificates of Disrepair

No applications were received for certificates of disrepair.

It would appear that the abundance of forms required by the Rent Act, 1957, have failed to improve the conditions under which people live, as the procedure is so cumbersome and the delay in getting the work done is so great, that tenants are not applying for the certificates.

COUNCIL HOUSES

The Architectural section of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department has supplied the following information in respect of Council houses as at 31st December, 1960 :—

Prior to the late War :—

Act under which constructed		Bedrooms			Bungalows			Total
		Two	Three	Four	Prefabs	Old Persons	Flats	
1919 ..	..	—	250	—	—	—	—	250
1923 ..	..	—	154	—	—	—	—	154
1924 ..	..	92	158	—	—	—	—	250
1925 ..	..	102	344	30	—	6	—	482
1930 ..	..	44	56	30	—	—	—	130
Totals	..	238	962	60	—	6	—	1,266
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Post War :—

Year constructed		Bedrooms			Bungalows			Total
		Two	Three	Four	Prefabs	Old Persons	Flats	
1946 ..	..	—	1	—	50	—	—	51
1947 ..	..	4	36	—	—	—	—	40
1948 ..	..	4	53	—	80	—	—	137
1949 ..	..	2	39	—	13	8	—	62
1950 ..	..	—	57	1	—	—	—	58
1951 ..	..	8	48	—	—	—	—	56
1952 ..	..	6	58	—	—	—	—	64
1953 ..	..	10	86	1	—	—	—	97
1954 ..	..	18	111	1	—	—	—	130
1955 ..	..	30	175	—	—	—	8	213
1956 ..	..	26	174	—	—	18	—	218
1957 ..	..	38	193	—	—	85	36	352
1958 ..	..	60	126	—	—	67	1	254
1959 ..	..	18	44	—	—	29	—	91
1960 ..	..	84	84	—	—	11	16	195
Totals	..	308	1,285	3	143	218	61	2,018
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—

PART IX—FOOD HYGIENE.

The demands of clean air, slum clearance and other duties must not be allowed to interfere with the time spent on food hygiene work. Much remains to be done in this field and although many shops have shown that they believe in clean food and the management of their own initiative, have rightly insisted on progress, it only requires one careless employee to undo all the good work which has been accomplished. It is only through constant vigilance and the enthusiasm both of the employees and the public, that the goal of clean, wholesome food can be achieved.

Types of Food Premises.

Bakehouses .. ..	..	1
Butchers' Shops .. ..	..	25
Wholesale Grocers .. ..	..	1
Ice Cream Sales .. ..	..	116
Ice Cream Manufacturer .. ..	..	1
Fish Fryers	10
General Stores	187
Catering Establishments	11
Public Houses	34
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Total	386
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Ice Cream.

116 shops are registered for the sale of ice cream and there is one business registered for the manufacture of ice cream by a hot mix process.

Meat Inspection.

Five private slaughterhouses hold current licences, but during the year three slaughterhouses were used regularly and one occasionally. The amount of killing which takes place outside normal office hours, means that overtime working has been necessary to maintain 100% meat inspection service. The ideal inspection service is for all animals to be subject to ante-mortem inspection, followed by a post-mortem inspection at the time of slaughter. It will be noted that there is a spectacular reduction in the amount of meat condemned by reason of being infected with tuberculosis. It would appear that if the present improvement is maintained, tuberculosis in meat will take its place with the historic diseases of the past.

Other Food Inspected.

The following items of food have been surrendered :—

136 tins of Cooked Ham	341 lbs.	2 ozs.
138 tins of Ham and Tongue	60 lbs.	6 ozs.
56 tins of Corned Beef	119 lbs.	2 ozs.
102 tins of Various Meats	76 lbs.	14 ozs.
273 tins of Various Fruits	179 lbs.	7½ ozs.
11 tins of Evaporated Milk	11 lbs.	0 ozs.
15 tins of Salmon	11 lbs.	8 ozs.
12 tins of Sardines	1 lb.	14 ozs.
11 tins of Cod Roe	2 lbs.	12 ozs.
23 tins of Baked Beans	14 lbs.	4 ozs.
34 tins of Broth	22 lbs.	4 ozs.
31 tins of Ox-tail Soup	18 lbs.	8 ozs.
4 tins of Steak Pudding	4 lbs.	0 ozs.
Pork Sausages	10 lbs.	0 ozs.
Black Pudding	2 lbs.	6 ozs.
Savoury Ducks	2 lbs.	4 ozs.
<hr/>		
Total	7 cwt. 3 qr.	25 lbs. 3½ ozs.
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TABLE IV

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Goats
Number killed	.. .. .. .. ..	700	409	16	2,715	1,757	—
Number inspected	.. .. .. .. ..	700	409	16	2,715	1,757	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned	.. .. .. .. ..	—	—	2	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	.. .. .. .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6.8%	17.8%	25.0%	2.2%	3.4%	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned	.. .. .. .. ..	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	4	—	—	—	36	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.7%	0.9%	—	—	—	2.1%	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED :—							
Carcase Meat .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	14 lbs.	3 qrs.	0 cwt.	Other than T.B.
Offal .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	.. .. .. .. ..	16 lbs.	19 cwt.	7 cwt.	0 lbs.
Diseased meat is collected by the Department van and taken to a firm who manufacture fertilizers.				22 lbs.	2 qrs.	2 qrs.	22 lbs.

Sampling of Food and Drugs.

The Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for the Staffordshire County Council has supplied the following details of samples taken by his Department :—

Details of Samples procured during 1960 :—

General Foods and Drugs.

Apricots in Syrup	Minced Beef (2)
Apricot Jam	Minced Turkey in Jelly
Beef Curry	Mixed Fruit Jam (2)
Bicarbonate of Soda	Mixed Peel
Blackberries in Syrup (2)	Mixed Fruit (2)
Blackcurrant Drink	Mint Sauce
Blackcurrant Jam	Oat Breakfast Cereal
Boric Acid B.P.	Oat Cereals
Broad Beans	Orange Fruit Drink
Bread Sauce	Orange Jelly
Bubble Gum	Pearl Barley
Butter Beans	Peeled Shrimps
Butter (2)	Pears in Syrup
Cochineal Extract	Pineapple Pieces in Syrup
Cocoa	Pineapple Jam
Coffee and Chicory Essence (2)	Plain Flour
Cooking Fat	Potted Salmon
Corned Beef	Pork Sausage (2)
Cream of Celery Soup	Pork Luncheon Meat (2)
Cream of Tomato Soup	Pork Pie
Creamed Rice Milk Pudding (3)	Processed Peas (2)
Creamed Sago Milk Pudding	Prunes in Syrup (2)
Custard Powder	Real Lemon Juice
Demerara Sugar	Raspberry Jam Roly-Poly
Epsom Salts, B.P. (2)	Red Plum Jam
Fancy Cake Mix	Rice
Fancy Red Salmon (2)	Sage and Onion Stuffing
Figs (3)	Sago
Flaked Rice	Sardines in Tomato Sauce
French Nougat	Self-Raising Flour (2)
Fruit Salad in Syrup	Semolina
Grapefruit Juice with Sugar	Shredded Suet (2)
Grapefruit in Heavy Syrup	Sliced Beetroot
Gravy Browning	Steak and Kidney Pie
Ground Ginger	Stewed Steak and Gravy (2)
Glace Cherries	Stoned Raisins
Green Beans	Strawberries in Syrup
Golden Crumbs	Sweets
Gooseberries in Syrup	Tea (3)
Hamburgers	Tomato Juice
Ice Cream	Tomato Juice Cocktail
Orange Drink (2)	Tomato Piquante
Lard (2)	Tuna in Olive Oil
Lemon Curd	Spirits (10)
Lemon Flavour Crystals	Vinegar
Liquorice Comfits	White Pepper
Malt Vinegar	Whole Rice
Margarine	Yorkshire Pudding Mix
Meat Paste, Beef and Tomato	Zinc and Castor Oil Cream
Meat Pudding	

Total Samples 131
Samples below standard 6

Unsatisfactory Samples

Semolina, 5 B/P—Slight deterioration, due to mould attack.	Informal. Old stock withdrawn from sale.
Stewed Steak with Gravy, 3 B/S— 27.3% deficient of meat.	Informal.
Stewed Steak with Gravy, 27 B/S— 15.2% deficient of meat.	Formal sample to above. To await result of deliberations of Food Standards Committee.
Pork Luncheon Meat, 11 B/S—6.8% deficient of meat.	Informal
Pork Luncheon Meat, 28 B/S—4.1% deficient of meat.	Formal sample to above. Goods packed before agreement was made in October, 1959.
Orange Drink, 12 B/S—Contains only 2.0% of Orange juice, instead of 5.0%.	Informal. Formal sample genuine.

Milk Supplies.

Results of samples of milk taken by the County Council are forwarded to this office for information :—

Type of Milk	Phosphatase Test	Turbidity Test	Methylene Blue Test
Pasteurised	10	—	6
Sterilised	—	12	—
T.T. Pasteurised ..	19	—	15*
T.T. Sterilised	—	—	—
T.T.C.I. Pasteurised ..	10	—	7

*1 sample of T.T. Pasteurised milk failed the Methylene Blue Test.

PART X—CLEAN AIR.

The Smoke Control Area in High Heath came into operation on 1st October, 1960. The site will consist of council houses and a new school.

As no five-year programme has been submitted to the Ministry, plans for future control areas are in abeyance. Some progress has, however, been made with industrial installations, and although most of these installations are for space-heating and process work, the co-operation between the Surveyor's Department and the Public Health Department enables the possible nuisance from these installations to be eliminated in the planning stage.

The nuisance from aluminium recovery plant is still receiving the active attention of the Alkali Inspector, but due to the special difficulties involved, there appears to be no quick and easy solution available. Various experiments have been carried out and it seems that the problem is on the way to being finalised.

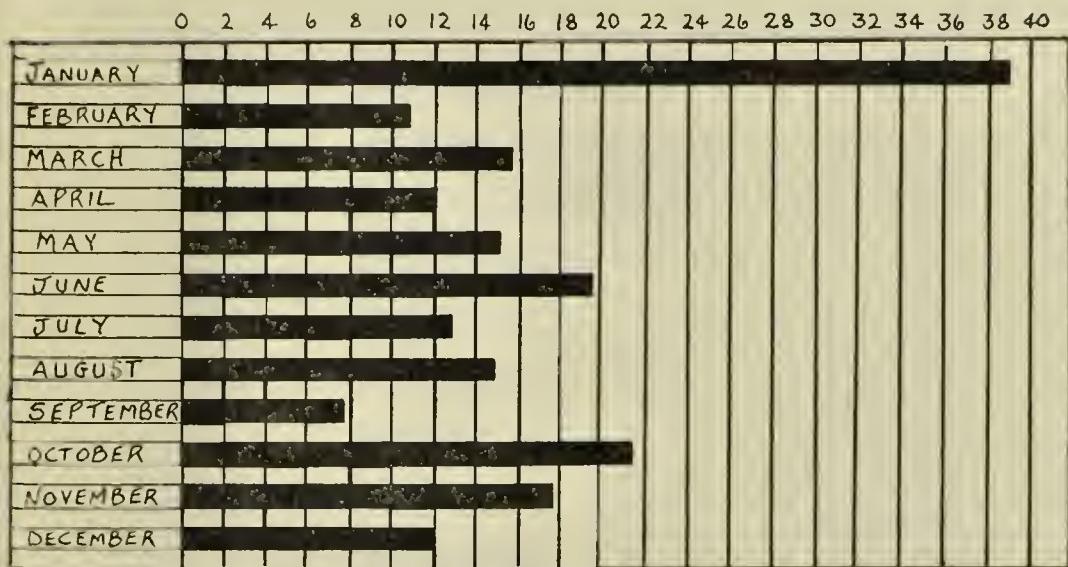
TABLE V—1960
DEPOSIT GAUGES—RECORDS OF DEPOSITS
Deposits in tons per square mile per month.

Month	Norton Canes	Brownhills	Shelfield
January	17.2	13.0	86.3
February	11.0	6.8	14.1
March	12.2	8.8	26.2
April	8.2	12.3	15.5
May	13.4	11.4	20.5
June	12.6	20.2	26.1
July	9.3	12.7	16.3
August	11.7	13.3	19.2
September	5.5	6.8	11.6
October	17.5	19.5	28.2
November	19.2	23.9	10.2
December	13.2	12.7	10.2
Totals	151.0	161.4	284.4
Monthly Average	12.6	13.4	23.7

DEPOSIT GAUGES 1960

SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)

Seasonal Average for whole of District Tons/sq. Mile per month



DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages)

Tons per square Mile per month

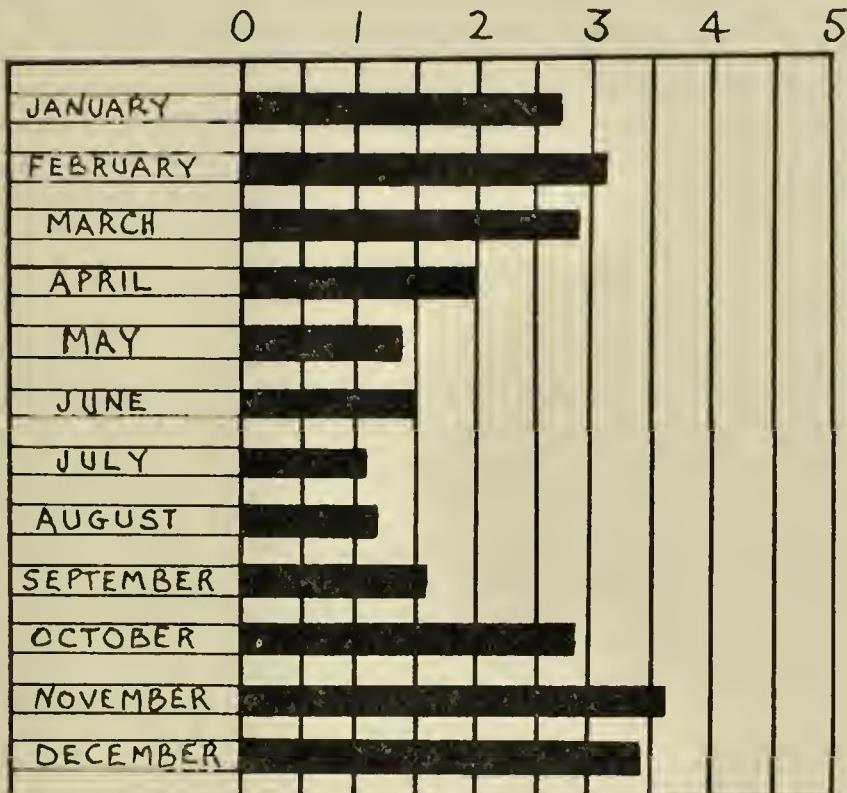


TABLE VI 1960
LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES—RECORD OF SULPHUR POLLUTION
Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected—in milligrams
per 100 square centimetres per day.

Month	Norton Canes	Brownhills	Shelfield
January	2.0	3.3	2.7
February	3.3	3.3	2.8
March	2.4	2.3	4.1
April	1.4	2.6	1.9
May	1.2	1.6	1.4
June	1.7	1.3	1.7
July	0.7	1.7	0.9
August	0.4	1.3	1.8
September	2.0	1.5	1.4
October	2.5	4.0	2.3
November	3.1	4.7	3.0
December	3.2	4.0	3.1
Totals	23.9	31.6	27.1
Monthly Average	2.0	2.6	2.3

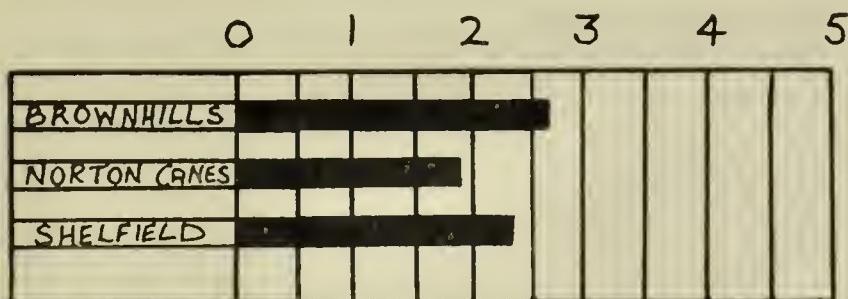
**LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES 1960 (SULPHUR DIOXIDE)
SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)**

M/Grams/SO₃ 100 sq. cms./day



DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages)

M/Grams/SO₃ 100 sq. cms./day



Shops Act, 1950.

The Council are an authority under the Shops Act by reason of powers delegated by the Staffordshire County Council. Visits for the purposes of Shops Act work are frequently combined with those made under the terms of other legislation. There are a few shopkeepers who think nothing of breaking the law by selling all kinds of goods as and when they please. It is another thing to collect the necessary evidence sufficient to obtain a conviction. The 1950 Act was an endeavour to consolidate the law as it relates to shops—there is room for a drastic overhaul of the whole picture if it is still true that a law which cannot be enforced is a bad law.

Factories.

The Council have indicated their progressive outlook by developing an industrial site. Overspill industry is being received as well as overspill population.

Two new factories came into operation during the year (both light engineering). The diversity of industry should be an insurance of continuity of employment, as it would require a general recession to affect the employment position in the district.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	82	167	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	5	—	—
TOTAL	89	177	—	—

Rodent Control.

The Council provides a free service for private dwelling and sewers, sewage works and refuse tips are treated at regular intervals.

Treatments have been carried out as follows :—

		Rats	Mice	Total
Local Authority's Property	..	4	—	4
Dwelling Houses	.. ..	65	15	80
Business Premises	.. ..	11	5	16
	Total ..			100

Mortuary

The mortuary is looked after by a part-time attendant. Considering the war-time construction the premises and equipment have been reasonable well maintained. 48 bodies were received during the year.

CONCLUSION.

I would like to express my thanks to the Council for their support and interest in the working of the department, and thank the officers of all other departments for their co-operation and assistance in matters of common interest.

Yours obediently,

R. H. MANN,

Chief Public Health Inspector



